



I

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(WEST SUFFOLK)

REPORT
Of The
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1967

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Thingoe, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

1, Northgate Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1967.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed a small increase after a sharp decline in the previous year.

The birth rate, the death rate and the infant mortality rate all showed falls compared with the previous year, but the figure for the corrected death rate compared favourably with that for England and Wales as a whole.

Two hundred and sixty cases of Measles were reported but no death occurred from this disease. An outbreak of infective hepatitis occurred amongst the families of service personnel and ten cases were notified.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board conducted a further public X-ray survey which was very well attended. Although the Unit was stationed at Bury St. Edmunds for most of the time it did pay short visits to Ixworth and Stanton and many residents of Thingoe Rural District attended.

It is a pleasure to record that further progress has been made with the provision and extension of main sewerage in our villages but it is only fair to mention that there are still a number of villages which are in urgent need of this facility.

Further progress has been made with the clearance of unfit property and with the improvement of those houses which can be made fit.

Throughout the year your officers have maintained their efforts to promote food hygiene and to ensure the purity of food and drink offered for sale within the district.

My thanks are due to the members of my staff and especially to Mr. F. Holmes, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally, I should like to record my appreciation of the encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor N.R. Whitwell, Chairman.

Councillor F.B. Clarke, Vice-Chairman.

Councillors

E.W. Bird	B.G. Lakelin
H.H. Cawston	Mrs. H.J. Marshall
L. Wright	*T.T.F. May
R.F. Grimwood	W.R. Mizen
*The Rev. W.E. Harris	W.H.H. Nichols
Mrs. K.M. Laing	D.D. Shickle
H.R. Smith	J.H. Warren

*Indicates Ex-Officio Member.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

This officer holds in addition the following appointments:-

Assistant County Medical Officer)	West Suffolk County Council
School Medical Officer)	
Medical Officer of Health	-	Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

F. HOLMES, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Hons Dip. R.I.P.H. & H.

This officer is also appointed Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

A.H. TRANTUM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Dip. H. ENG.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Health Engineering Certificate R.S.H.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate R.S.H.

S.T.AARON, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate R.S.H.

Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works Certificate R.S.H.

Tropical Hygiene Certificate R.S.H.

Clerk/Typist

MRS. J.E. JAMES

Rodent Operators

C.H.W. HOLDEN

H.V. MILLS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 106,739 acres

Registrar General's estimate	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
of the resident population	21,530	21,410	22,120
Census 1961 (April)		20,070	
Rateable Value	£434,659	£455,306	£436,310
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,800	£1,717	£1,754

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed an increase of 120.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	162	184	346
Illegitimate	12	10	22
	<u>174</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>368</u>
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.1	19.0	
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.1	20.1	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	17.2	17.7	
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	94.0	94.8	
Comparability factor for births	1.00	1.06	

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	13.4	9.8	
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales	14.8	15.4	

BIRTHS The actual number of Live Births registered was thirty-eight fewer than in the previous year and this produced a sharp decline in the crude birth rate. The fall in the adjusted birth rate was even more marked because of the application of a less favourable comparability factor, but the figure of 17.1 per 1,000 of population was only fractionally below that for England and Wales as a whole.

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.0	9.6
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.8	11.0
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	11.2	11.7
Comparability factor for deaths	1.08	1.14

There was a welcome reduction in the number of deaths reported and consequently in the crude death rate. The adjusted death rate was further reduced by the application of a more favourable comparability factor and the figure of 9.8 per 1,000 of population remained well below that for England and Wales. Six deaths occurred from cancer of the lung which was the same number as in the previous year, but there was an increase in the number of deaths from all forms of cancer. There were decreases in the number of deaths from heart and circulatory diseases, from vascular lesions of the nervous system and from respiratory diseases

but ten lives were lost from accidental causes and four from suicide.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year of age	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	3	7
	1967	1966	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	19.0	22.2	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births, England and Wales	18.3	19.0	
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	29.0	25.4	

The actual number of deaths of infants under one year of age decreased from nine in the previous year to seven in the year under review. This caused a reduction in the infant mortality rate, but it should be emphasised that this rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births. Three of the infant deaths were caused by prematurity, two by congenital abnormalities and one by birth injury. Six of the seven infant deaths occurred in the first month of life.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS										
	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Birth Rate (corrected)	17.1	20.1	18.3	20.7	18.8	18.6	17.0	18.7	17.6	18.8
Death Rate (corrected)	9.8	11.0	8.9	9.8	10.9	8.8	8.9	9.6	8.4	9.0
Infant Mortality Rate	19.0	22.2	18.4	30.2	15.5	24.6	21.1	12.1	28.6	35.9
Number of Infant Deaths	7	9	7	13	6	9	7	4	9	12

The following table gives the causes and numbers of deaths which occurred during 1967:-

Registrar General's Figures				
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
		1967	(1966)	1967 (1966)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	(1)	1	(-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
4. Diphtheria.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
6. Meningococcal infection.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
8. Measles.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	(1)	-	(-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	(3)	1	(1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	6	(6)	-	(-)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	(-)	5	(4)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	(-)	1	(1)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	14	(10)	9	(6)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	(1)	-	(-)
16. Diabetes.....	1	(1)	-	(2)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	11	(15)	19	(20)
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	22	(17)	16	(15)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	(-)	1	(2)
20. Other heart disease.....	15	(10)	13	(9)
21. Other circulatory disease.....	1	(3)	2	(5)
22. Influenza.....	1	(-)	1	(-)
23. Pneumonia.....	8	(12)	9	(8)
24. Bronchitis.....	5	(7)	1	(3)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	(1)	-	(1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	(-)	1	(2)
27. Gastritis.....	-	(-)	-	(1)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	(1)	-	(-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	(-)	-	(-)
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	(4)	2	(1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	7	(9)	3	(14)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	(3)	2	(-)
34. All other accidents.....	1	(1)	5	(-)
35. Suicide.....	2	(4)	2	(1)
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	(-)	-	(-)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.....	115	145	260
Infective Hepatitis.....	5	5	10
Scarlet Fever.....	4	1	5
Whooping Cough.....	-	1	1
Food Poisoning.....	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	21	2	23

Measles Two hundred and sixty cases were reported but no death occurred from this disease.

Infective Hepatitis. Ten cases occurred mainly amongst the children of Service personnel. This outbreak was very fully investigated by medical staff and hygiene specialists of the Royal Air Force. Service discipline and communications made it possible within two days to trace and place under surveillance a contact of one of the cases although he was serving in the Persian Gulf.

Food Poisoning. There was one case of infection with Salmonella typhimurium but the source was not traced.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

<u>NEW CASES.</u>	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Pulmonary	2	1	3	5	2	7	5	3	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Ages of new cases notified during 1967:

Pulmonary: Male 20; Female 83.

Non-Pulmonary: Female 78

Ages of cases restored to Register in 1967:

Pulmonary: Male 44

Non-Pulmonary: Nil

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified increased from one in the previous year to three in the year under review.

MORTALITY. One death occurred from Tuberculosis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Cases at 1st January, 1967	17	22	2	1	19	23
2. Notified first in 1967	1	1	-	1	1	2
3. Restored to Register	1	-	-	-	1	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register.	-	1	-	-	-	1
6. Remaining at 31st December, 1967.	19	22	2	2	21	24

CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics were held in Thingoe Rural District at the following centres:

Barrow	Village Hall	4th Friday afternoon.
Chedburgh	Church Hall	2nd Friday afternoon.
Honington	Sick Quarters R.A.F.	1st Tuesday afternoon.
Ingham	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday afternoon.
Ixworth	Village Hall	3rd Thursday afternoon.
Rougham	The School Hut	4th Thursday afternoon.
Stanton	Shepherds Hall	2nd Tuesday afternoon.

The above Clinics and other Health and Welfare Services were provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

MASS X-RAY UNIT.

A considerable number of residents of Thingoe Rural District attended the Mass X-ray Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board when the Unit was stationed at Reeve Lodge, Ixworth, the Catchpole Engineering Company, Stanton and at the Athenaeum in Bury St. Edmunds.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

1. GENERAL

There were no changes of staff during 1967.

The year can be regarded as one of steady progress despite the uncertain times. Your officers were able to persuade a number of property owners to carry out works of improvement to their shops, factories and substandard houses in spite of the unsettled economic climate with repeated financial crises ultimately leading to devaluation.

Legislation.

Of the new legislation passed during the year the Civic Amenities Act was of outstanding importance to your Public Health Department. Although the full effect of the Act will take some time to develop, already the benefits of a general clearing up of the countryside is becoming apparent.

The report on "Gypsies and Other Travellers" by the Sociological Research Section of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was published during the year and a Bill on this subject was introduced to Parliament which if passed is likely to have widespread effects throughout the country. In this area numerous members of the travelling community are absorbed annually for seasonal work on farms and at least five such families have purchased pieces of land and have become settled in the district. These sites are a credit to the owners and nowhere have we had any complaints about our 'regulars'. Again two families have taken up winter residence on the Council's own site and have settled down well. It must be admitted that occasionally the odd traveller with anti-social habits appears in some unauthorised spot but it cannot be said that there is a real problem in the area of Thingoe Rural District. If this Council is directed to provide a site under the terms of the proposed Act it is predicted, by your Chief Public Health Inspector, that a problem will be created where none exists by attracting these families from far and wide.

South Suffolk Show.

The Department staged an exhibition in the Council's marquee at this Show and the staff worked hard to make the stand attractive and interesting. Their efforts both in and out of office hours were rewarded by the considerable interest shown by the public and are acknowledged here with thanks. Local Government staff are often criticised but, in fact, there are no more enthusiastic workers when they are given the chance and the necessary encouragement to show it.

	Number on Register at 31.12.67	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,6, and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	73	56	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (*excl. Outworkers premises).	28	20	2	Nil
TOTALS	101	76	5	Nil

*i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123(i)), Institutions (Section 124) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127)

Cases in which Defects were found

	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Reported		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	3	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of cleanliness	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act not including Outworkers	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
TOTALS	6	12	Nil	1	Nil

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Unsatisfactory premises Section (134)
Wearing apparel(Making etc.)	1	Nil	Nil
Making boxes other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper (firework cases)	21	1	Nil

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS

Premises Inspected	Total Inspections	
	1967	(1966)
<u>Housing:</u>		
Condemned Properties.....	186	72
Survey and Classification.....	2540	1766
Defects and Nuisances.....	227	73
Improvement Grants.....	275	155
Rent Acts.....	-	2
Overcrowding.....	9	5
Drainage.....	121	76
Applications for Council Houses.....;	57	46
<u>Food Premises:</u>		
Meat Inspection.....	120	159
Butchers.....	8	9
Bakers.....	6	5
General Stores.....	86	82
Fried Fish.....	4	5
Cafes and Catering Premises.....	21	9
Mobile Shop.....	8	17
Licensed Premises.....	23	15
Unsound Foodstuffs.....	20	9
Dairies.....	1	3
Schools.....	2	4
Ice Cream Premises.....	11	9
<u>Caravans:</u>		
Caravans and Caravan Sites.....	112	76
<u>Rats and Mice:</u>		
Tips.....	11	12
Sewers and Sewage Works.....	9	4
General.....	14	1
Contracts.....	7	4
<u>Factories:</u>		
Powered Factories.....	54	50
Non-powered Factories.....	1	1
Outworkers.....	2	1
<u>Petroleum:</u>		
Inspection of installations (including tank tests).....	17	57
<u>Interviews:</u>	708	446
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	19	9
<u>Problem Families</u>	7	5
<u>Poultry Dressers</u>	2	2
<u>Smoke Abatement and Clean Air Act</u>	9	2
<u>Explosives</u>	16	6
<u>Agricultural Properties</u> (Safety, Health and Welfare).....	7	9
<u>Show Grounds and Fairs</u>	10	4
<u>Keeping of Animals</u>	5	3
<u>Water Supply</u>	99	153
<u>Ponds, Pools and Ditches</u>	77	47
<u>Bathing Places</u>	3	5
<u>Verminous Premises</u>	8	2
<u>Other Nuisances</u>	63	23
<u>Flooding</u>	1	2
<u>Sewer Connections and Pail Conversions</u>	10	10
<u>Insect Infestations</u>	32	21
<u>Lectures</u>1.....	3	3
<u>Noise Abatement</u>	3	2
<u>Animal Boarding Establishments</u>	15	15
<u>Disinfection for Export (Clothes)</u>	1	-
<u>Hairdressers</u>	3	1
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises</u>	54	57
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	11	26
<u>Scrap Metal Dealers</u>	14	-

2. (a) PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

The mains supply of water is provided by the West Suffolk Water Board who have provided the analyses reproduced in this Report.

The demand for water is rising rapidly due to the expansion of West Suffolk and occupiers were requested to restrict their usage in the summer months but at no time were supplies cut off. Complaints of taint in the supplies to Hall Park were referred to the Water Board for investigation.

(b) PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Details of supply Parish by Parish are not known in sufficient detail to reproduce in this Report but private well and bore supplies, where known, are sampled on request or as necessary. The results of samples and action taken during the year are shown in the following table.

<u>Bacteriological Examination Results</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Number of samples taken during the year	40	47
Number of properties served	84	77
Number of satisfactory samples	24	26
Number of unsatisfactory samples	16	21

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis or Nitrate estimation.

Unsatisfactory Samples

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
6	Mains connected.
7	Supplies cleansed or work in hand.
1	Property to be represented as unfit.
2	Owner/occupiers advised after refusing a mains supply.

3. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

All premises registered have been visited by a Public Health Inspector and the ready co-operation of the majority of employers is acknowledged. Applicants for planning consent were advised of the requirements of the Act at an early stage and this was appreciated. Unfortunately, an accident resulted from the provision of unsatisfactory equipment in a new warehouse on the first day of opening. The Council decided not to prosecute in this case but one man was injured who need not have been.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year.	Total Number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	3	36	2
Retail Shops	3	27	17
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	2	3	2
Catering establishments open to Public, Canteens.	0	9	6
Fuel storage depots	1	3	1
Totals	9	78	28

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
Offices	119
Retail Shops	70
Wholesale departments, warehouses	115
Catering establishments open to the public	17
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	4
Total	327
Total Males	213
Total Females	114

4. CARAVANS

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Number of licensed sites at 31st December	42	38
Number of caravans licensed on these sites	164	161
Number of exempted sites at December 31st	18	12
Maximum number of caravans on exempted sites	46	34
Number of applications for new licences received during the year	9	11
Number of applications for new licences approved during the year	7	9
Number of caravans approved on such sites	7	10
Number of applications for site licences refused during the year	2	3
Number of sites discontinued during the year	5	9

Residential

The existing sites have created no problems during the year and in fact they have not been fully occupied. An application to develop a site at Horringer was refused on planning grounds and this refusal was upheld on appeal. The Council's site was underoccupied but was used by itinerant families from time to time. Unfortunately, the Council were left with a considerable debt when certain families moved off without giving prior notice and before they had paid their just dues. This behaviour does not give encouragement to the Council to provide further sites although other members of this community were accepted later in the year but not until the Council had decided to charge a £25 deposit before the caravans moved onto the site.

One caravan sited in the rear yard of business premises without consent was the subject of a report and proceedings were approved but were not concluded as the caravan was subsequently moved.

An alteration to the Council's standing conditions was made to require each caravan to have its own fire extinguisher fitted inside the 'van.

Touring Caravans.

Touring caravans used by people on holiday were observed from time to time both on open land and on laybys. This popular pastime is bound to grow and it is likely that the demand for holiday sites probably in the Breckland region will need to be met. It is understood that the Forestry Commission are already considering this development. An application for a night halt on the A143 Great Yarmouth road is in preparation and likely to be considered next year.

Showmen

Bury St. Edmunds has been the home of a group of travelling showmen for many years. The site occupied by these people for the winter months has recently been converted to a car park. This has posed a problem and has caused the people displaced to search for another resting place. Although alternative sites were obtained for the winter some were not satisfactory from a public health point of view and were not up to the standards to which these showmen were accustomed. Further attempts are being made to find a more suitable site for these people who have strong local ties and to whom this area is home.

Gypsies and Other Travellers.

This district has for many years received its share of itinerants many of whom have returned regularly at the appropriate season. The members of the Department have become personally known to most of them and not only are we welcome in their 'vans but they know they can call upon the Department at any time for help and advice. This they frequently do. Many of them over the years have settled down and bought their own sites within the district. In fact, a considerable amount of work has been done to assimilate these people into the community and it is fair to claim considerable success. Under the circumstances it would be unfair if the Council were compelled to provide a further site for wanderers as it is expected that it would be occupied by people from elsewhere and without any local attachments who would gravitate to the new site.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND NATURAL BATHING PLACES.

Routine visits were paid to all swimming pools and bathing places which were used either by schoolchildren or the public but it appears from the planning applications that private swimming pools are becoming increasingly popular. The Department offered their services in all cases and this offer was accepted by two private owners.

There is still no public swimming bath within the district; the nearest being Bury St. Edmunds, Stowmarket and Newmarket. The nearest covered public pool is at Cambridge and many people travel the twenty-eight miles regularly to use this facility. With many children now being taught to swim in school swimming pools the demand is bound to increase and a public covered swimming pool in the vicinity would be a great asset.

The use of rivers is declining but in the very hot weather the temptation is too great and on two occasions persons bathing at Knettishall were interviewed to find out their awareness, or lack thereof, of the condition of the river. Despite the fact that a Notice had been erected warning bathers that the river was liable to pollution the reactions of parents varied from one extreme to the other. For example one mother who had brought her children to the river on several occasions said that if she had realised the water was liable to sewage pollution she would not have considered using the river. Immediately she dressed her children and left. Another said that she had used the river as a child, had brought her own children regularly, and would continue to do so until stopped.

It is clear that notices, however explicit, are of little value and only education and the provision of more satisfactory facilities will ensure that the public can enjoy completely safe bathing.

6. PRIVATE DRAINAGE.

Septic tanks are still widely used within the district and the Council decided to provide a free emptying service from October. This will enable the Department to arrange for the alleviation of some of the nuisances which exist as a result of effluent being discharged to ditches or watercourses. Obviously alleviation is the operative word as purification and disposal via a controlled works is the only satisfactory way of avoiding nuisance and insofar as the annual cost to the Authority is concerned there seems little to choose between the provisions of a free cesspool emptying service and the treatment of effluent at a sewage works providing always that the properties are within reasonable distance of a practical sewer line.

Where sewers have already been provided the majority of owners have connected their properties and the availability of these sewers has increased the interest in Improvement Grants. The opportunity has not been missed to contact owners of all properties now having a sewer available to encourage them to connect and to explain the advantages of Improvement Grants.

7. RADIOACTIVITY

Radioactive Substances Act, 1960.

The only notified use of radioactive material within the area has been that of phosphorus 32 used in agricultural research. On the same premises a Polonium-beryllium neutron source was also stored and used for the estimation of moisture in the soil. Advice was given as to the method of storage of the source.

8. PETROLEUM

Number of premises licensed during 1967	150
(Total quantity stored	165,500 gallons)
Number of new tanks installed	8
Number of tanks discontinued	1
Number of licences transferred during the year	4
Existing tanks tested and found to be satisfactory	2
Tanks reinstated and found to be satisfactory	-

No accidents or fires were reported on Petroleum Storage premises and it was only necessary to bring to the attention of Licence holders minor infringements of the Regulations.

An application for bulk storage of petroleum overground was received. The installation was under construction at the end of the year and should come into service early in 1968.

9. EXPLOSIVES

The one firework factory is licensed by the Home Office but sixteen Licences were issued for the storage of fireworks and cartridges including five new licences. Frequent visits to the storage premises resulted in the Licensees having a fuller appreciation of the possible dangers.

10. INSECT AND OTHER INFESTATIONS.

The Department continued to give a service to the public in destroying various insect infestations and this year had a heavy demand for the destruction of wasps nests. Unfortunately, Mr. Holden, was badly stung on two occasions, on one of which it was necessary for him to receive out-patient treatment at the West Suffolk General Hospital. Full protective equipment was obtained in order to avoid repetition of this unfortunate and painful experience. The following infestations were treated:-

Fleas	1	Flies	2
Bees	5	Wasps	52
Hornets	1	Cockroaches	1
Ants	1	Bats	2
Martin Bugs 1			

11. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Whereas numerous heating installations above 55,000 B.t.u.'s have no doubt been installed by private occupiers considerable development of small factories took place during 1967 and the opportunity was taken to inform all prospective occupiers of their responsibilities under this Act.

As a result of our letters applications for prior approval were received in respect of three factories and approved subject to minor amendments or increased chimney heights. Negotiations continued in respect of other factories and particular care was given to applications from prospective occupiers of the Mildenhall Road Industrial Estate as a smoke nuisance in this area would be liable to give rise to complaints from the occupiers of the nearby Mildenhall Road Residential Estate.

Although it may be some time before the Minister will accept a Smoke Control area from a district so sparsely populated as Thingoe it is at the development

stage that eventual problems can be most successfully solved. In this respect the Council's Byelaws and Building Regulations require that any fuel burning apparatus installed in a building shall be capable of burning smokeless fuel but it is evident from the Builders Merchants stores that many of the fireplaces sold do not comply with this requirement.

12. RODENT CONTROL

The Department continued to have the services of Mr. Holden and Mr. Mills and further interest was shown in the Council's contract work. There was no evidence during the year of any warfarin resistance although this has been reported from Norfolk particularly in mice.

Whenever the opportunity arose the responsibilities of occupiers to notify infestations was repeated and the number of complaints received reflected the added interest, or rather awareness, of the public.

It may never be possible to eliminate the rat from our countryside but with continued efforts by owners, occupiers and the Council this menace to the nation's health and larder could be considerably reduced. The following table is extracted from the Annual Report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	6,177	1,152
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	318	17
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	309	16
(ii) Mice	51	1
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	633	129
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	253	41
(ii) Mice	29	2

4. Number of sewers infested by rats during the year

1. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE.

The number of premises by type as at 31st December was as follows:-

General Stores	58	Butchers	8
Greengrocers	-	Bakers	2
Confectionary	5	Cafes	2
Guest Houses	1	Meat Manufacturers	-
Licensed Premises	48	Licensed Clubs	13
Factory Canteens	8	Day School Kitchens	7
Fish and Chips	3	Boarding Schools	3
Wholesale Food Warehouses 2			

The principal changes this year have been an increase in factory canteens, the establishment of two wholesale warehouses and a further decrease in the number of village shops. This trend is likely to continue until a much greater expansion of village populations takes place. This expansion is inevitable in time due to the tendency to industrial and other development in East Anglia. A new trend in mobile trading is the franchise system whereby vehicles, particularly Soft Ice-Cream vans, are hired out to individuals who take part of the profits rather than a wage. Some of these vehicles are left on roadside verges overnight and are hired by individuals who have not always available a hot water supply and facilities in their own homes to the standards required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. This makes the essential cleaning processes difficult and as much of the trading is done in the evenings and at weekends the supervision of these vehicles must of necessity be carried out outside normal office hours. Whilst the basic responsibility is that of the owner of the vehicle it is often far from easy to resolve problems of liability for failure to comply in all respects with the existing Regulations and sampling of the products sold becomes more difficult because of the need to deliver samples to a laboratory within six hours of collection. It is therefore intended to provide basic laboratory facilities in the Council's new offices so that simple bacteriological tests can be carried out on the spot and any resulting growths despatched during normal office hours to the Public Health Laboratory for further tests when necessary.

Mobile Traders.

Particular attention was paid to Mobile Traders under the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 and it is pleasing to report that in the majority of cases co-operation was excellent, but there were one or two instances of failure to comply including one vehicle belonging to a large multiple firm. The driver of this vehicle claimed that he had not been informed of any of the Regulations and the matter was reported to the Council.

A warning letter was sent and an assurance given that the Regulations would be fully complied with immediately.

One application for exemption under Section 18 was applied for by a greengrocer and this was granted in respect of the provision of a sink. Other enquiries were made about possible exemption from the provision of a wash-hand basin, but in view of the small cost and undoubted benefits of such a facility, it was not felt reasonable to approve any exemption and following discussions with the persons concerned no applications were made.

Complaints were received from time to time about litter resulting from the parking of vehicles at the kerbside and on grass verges outside dwelling houses. This was particularly so in respect of traders working from Council houses and the matter was referred to the Housing Committee for a policy decision.

2. UN SOUND FOOD.

The numbers of complaints about unsound food were small but the following complaints were dealt with.

(a) Larva in Breakfast Cereal.

The larva found in a packet of breakfast cereal was submitted for identification and was recorded as being a caterpillar of a noctuid moth and possibly foreign but in the absence of more information further investigation was not possible.

(b) Suspected Finger Bandage in Boiled Ham.

A quantity of boiled ham provided to the School Meals Service was reported as being unfit due to strings of a "finger bandage" being found in the ham when being sliced. Investigation showed that the material was in fact part of a salt bag which had been inserted into the joint as part of the preservation process, but by the time the investigation revealed the answer the meat was several days old and it was felt advisable to have it destroyed.

(c) Refrigeration Breakdown.

As a result of a breakdown in a refrigerator a quantity of food was surrendered voluntarily to the Department not because it was unfit but because it was unsaleable. The Department's policy in recent years has been to concentrate attention on refrigerated products and the care and maintenance of refrigerators as it is very important that every refrigerator

should be carefully checked and maintained if food is not to deteriorate.

3. MEAT INSPECTION.

Despite the inconvenience caused by small through-put and irregular slaughtering hours one hundred per cent post mortem meat inspection was again maintained. It was not found possible to carry out ante-mortem inspection in every case as this would have involved an unreasonable amount of double travelling in what is now a totally uneconomic service in so far as the Local Authority is concerned. It is estimated that the cost to the Council per animal inspected is almost £2 whereas the maximum fee chargeable is 2/6d.

One Slaughterhouse failed to come up to the standard required and was sold at the end of the year. The Licence will not be renewed.

Meat condemned at the slaughterhouses is listed below.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
5 Livers (mult. abscesses)	1 Head (T.B.)
5 Livers (abscesses)	10 Sets Lungs (pneumonia)
1 Liver (telangiectasis)	1 Set Lungs + Heart (pneumonia and pericarditis)
2 pt. Livers (distoma)	5½ Livers (ascaris lumbricoides)
1 Mesentery (contamination)	4 Lungs (pleurisy)
1 Liver (necrosis. abscess)	1 Head and Mesentery (T.B.)
2 Livers (fascioliasis)	1 Spleen, Liver and Trimmings (peritonitis)
1 Set Lungs (pneumonia)	1 Mesentery (septic foci)
pt. Skirt and Gut Fats (oedema, adhesions)	1 Uterus (metritis)
	2 Kidneys (cystic)
	7lbs. Kidneys (decomposition)
	3 Kidneys (nephritis)
	1 Liver (b. necrosis)
	2 Livers (necrosis)
	4 Livers (cirrhosis)
	1 Heart (pericarditis)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (All were inspected)	149	Nil	Nil	4	197 200
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>		1			
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.3%	0%	0%	0%	11.6%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.5%
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses or animals other than those shown above are slaughtered in the area.

4. MILK AND DAIRIES

There was one change involving an additional distributor of milk but there were no complaints or reported illness resulting from milk during the year.

However, there is still a quantity of untreated milk being consumed by employees on farms and careful investigations were made in two reported cases of Salmonella in calves. This is still a considerable problem and immediate notification of confirmed or suspected cases to the Health Department by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food or by the Veterinary Surgeon involved is very much appreciated.

1. CLEARANCE OF UNFIT PROPERTIES.

Throughout the year a reassessment was made of unfit houses within the area in order to discover what changes had taken place since the initial house to house survey in 1960/61. This second survey has proved extremely valuable in showing in detail where the greatest progress has been made and where greater attention is necessary. In recent years the Minister of Housing has attempted to obtain a formula for assessing these problems but the results of this survey show that in a Rural District of this nature no formula would work properly and the only way of assessing the situation is to carry out a detailed survey of every Parish. The results of the survey showed that we are barely keeping pace with the programme approved in 1962 but although progress has been made there is still a lot to be done. There are still one hundred and twenty-four houses known to be unfit to such an extent that demolition will probably be necessary and in addition some three hundred and twenty which can only be made fit or reconstructed at considerable expense. During the year seventeen properties were demolished and twenty-two closed, but an analysis of the Council's waiting list shows that there are thirty-four applications registered with the Council from people occupying properties subject to Closing and Demolition Orders and fifty applications from persons in sub-standard properties which are due to be dealt with under the Housing Acts. The progress in rehousing applicants from unfit properties must be speeded up if we are not to have an excessive waiting list of people in substandard properties.

2. IMPROVEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION.

Whilst the demolition of properties may be considered to be a positive task reconstruction and improvement is even more worthwhile, and this Council has not neglected any opportunity to follow this course. The need to save as many buildings as possible and the availability of Grants to aid this process must be "sold" to the public in a similar way to any other sales campaign. Such a "sales" campaign has been maintained by the Public Health Inspectors. No chance has been missed to explain in the fullest possible way the benefits to be obtained both by occupiers and owners and this approach has paid such dividends that sixteen per cent of all privately owned houses have been improved with the aid of a Grant. If one takes into account the Council houses which have been improved with Grant aid and those privately improved without Grant aid the figure is in the region of twenty-five per cent. This is a very satisfying figure but the drive must continue.

Present legislation enables Local Authorities to declare Improvement Areas but the procedure is not practical in a district such as this and the only change which would seem worthwhile would be the introduction of a system similar to that of the Time and Place procedure now applied to unfit houses under the Housing Acts. Such a procedure would be simple and effective and give all sides an opportunity to discuss any objections and it is difficult to see why this has not been included either in existing or proposed legislation. If such measures were possible it is certain that an immediate impact would be made on the six hundred and ninety nine properties known not to be in all respects fit but which could be made so at reasonable expense and these together with those capable of being reconstructed would add a further one thousand fit houses to those already considered fit, which represents one seventh of the total housing stock or one in three of the houses built before 1919.

Improvement Grants completed and approved during the year were as follows:

	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Discretionary Grants	33	19
Standard Grants	47	31
Close Conversion	2	2

3. NEW BUILDING (a) Council

Fifty one council properties were completed during the year but this number included some from previous building programmes which had not been completed on time, and buildings under construction which had already been approved in previous programmes. This was partly due to the Builders being engaged in private development which may be more profitable than building to a price fixed by a Local Authority.

(b) Private.

The demand for new houses has continued unabated and this demand is reflected in the continual rise in prices of both new and older properties. The pressure on the countryside for housing sites both individual and group has been maintained despite the financial strictures, and the Council's own site at Hall Park, Great Barton has been more successful than was originally anticipated. So much so that the second phase is likely to be commenced in 1968. The number of private properties completed during the year was two hundred and twenty-six.

4. OVERCROWDING.

The known cases of overcrowding are few and the majority are likely to solve themselves by marriage of the older children of the family as time goes by. Only one case of overcrowding has an application with the Council for rehousing but a large family which had moved from the London area and were eventually evicted are now under the care of the County Council in Part III accommodation. Desperate efforts were made to obtain suitable accommodation for this family but it is regrettable to note that no help whatsoever was forthcoming from the Authorities who had previously been responsible for this family and who had contributed to the overcrowding of their home in West Suffolk by discharging three of their children who had been in care.

Cases on Register at 1st January, 1967.	7
New Cases	Nil
Families rehoused by Thingoe R.D.C.	Nil
Families rehoused privately	Nil
Families reduced by marriage etc.	1
Families left the district	1*
Remaining on Register at 31st December, 1966	5

*This family were evicted and moved to County Council accommodation.

SANITARY SERVICES

This information has been supplied by:-

S.M. CASSON, M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.P.H.E.,

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

1. SEWERAGE

The year 1967 was not an over-active one for the construction of sewerage schemes. Much work was carried out in the preparation of new schemes and submitted to the Minister but few approvals were forthcoming.

As reported last year Pakenham still remained to be carried out although some agreement was reached with the Thedwastre Council and the scheme submitted to the Minister towards the end of the year. No information has yet been received regarding its proceeding. Of the other schemes submitted approval was given to proceed with Hargrave and Chevington and a commencement should be made on this scheme early in the new year. Approval was also given for the Bradfield St. George Rougham Green scheme and here again commencement is likely to be made during Spring of 1968. Two other group schemes were still with the Minister at the end of the year; those for the grouping of Ixworth, Bardwell and Stanton where existing works are overloaded and for a new scheme for Hawstead, Whepstead and Brockley. Some difficulty was encountered in the acquisition of land for the latter scheme but this appeared to have cleared up by the end of the year. An enquiry was held into proposals for the enlargement of the Barrow sewage works and largely as a result of comments by the Minister's Inspector another look is to be had at the proposals with a view to modifications.

The scheme for the sewerage of Troston and Great Livermere was completed but some difficulty arose from smell emitting from manholes where the pumping main discharged in the village of Ingham. A Wallace and Tiernan chlorinator was thereupon installed in the pumping station and this has proved to be satisfactory.

2. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

No change was made during the year in the refuse collection scheme although the Council look forward to the day when it will be possible to introduce a back-door collection. The Council did, however, consider in some detail the shortage of tipping space and came to the conclusion that the crude tipping of refuse practised for many years is no longer tolerable. One of the great difficulties in operating controlled tipping in East Anglia is the lack of covering material and the Council concluded that the refuse needed to be treated either by incineration or pulverisation

before depositing. Visits were made to a number of pulverisation plants in various parts of the country and the investigation into the best method of treating refuse will be continued in 1968. In the meantime however the Council made application for planning permission to use a number of railway cuttings on the abandoned Bury St. Edmunds/Sudbury railway line and agreed to purchase subject to planning permission being forthcoming. It would appear that planning permission for use of the railway cuttings is likely to be received with the condition that only incinerated or pulverised refuse is deposited.

C E R T I F I C A T E O F A N A L Y S I S O F W A T E R

Sample Received 15th September 1967 from West Suffolk Water Board 26th September, 1967.

Marked Raw Water - Rushbrooke P.S. i/c/SU/718

LabNo. 4147/W

Dert No. T.1732

The Chemical results stated in parts per million.

	Nitrogen			Chlorion as Chlorine	Oxygen Absorbed from Permang- anate (4hr., 27°C)	Hardness			Free Carbon Dioxide	Total Diss- olved Soli- ds at 180°C	pH.	Iron	Lead Copper Zinc	
	Ammon- iacal	Album- inoid	Nitrate			Total	Temp	Perm						
Appearance	- clear													
Deposit	- nil													
Colour	- nil													
Taste	- satisfactory													
Odour	- nil													
	0.02	0.01	2.4	nil	20	0.04	320	280	40	62	405	6.7	0.04	nil

REMARKS:

The organic quality of this water is very good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The pH of the sample is low compared with that of previous samples, the free carbonic acid content being relatively high. If this water goes into supply without pH correction it may be found to be somewhat corrosive on its action on metals.

Apart from this point, the analytical characteristics of the sample agree well with those of previous samples, and in particular with the complete analysis made in July, 1965. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purpose.

Analytical and Consulting Chemists
Eric C. Wood Ph.D., A.R.C.S., R.R.I.C.,
H.W. Wood

C E R T I F I C A T E O F A N A L Y S I S O F W A T E R

Sample received 13th September, 1967 from West Suffolk Water Board 26th September, 1967

Marked Raw - Risby P.S. 1/C/SU/717. Bore No. 2 Lab. No. 4148/W Cert. No. T.1735

The Chemical results are stated in parts per million

Distinctive No. or name	Nitrogen			Nitrite	Chlorine as Chloride	Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4hr., 27°C)	Hardness			Free Carbon Dioxide	Total Dissolved Solids at 180°C	pH	Iron	Lead Copper Zinc
	Ammoniacal	Albuminoid	Nitrate				Total	Temp	Perm					
Appearance - clair														
Deposit - nil														
Colour - nil														
Taste - satisfactory														
Odour - nil														
	pr.nil	0.02	5.7	nil	16	0.12	300	256	50	45	365	7.1	0.07	nil

REMARKS: The organic quality of this water is very good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The analysis as a whole is closely in agreement with that of previous samples. In particular, the mineral analysis differs little from that of the sample taken in July, 1965. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purpose.

Analytical and Consulting Chemists
Eric C. Wood 12.D.M.A.&.C.S., E.R.I.C.,

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

H.W. Wood

Sample received 12th June 1967 from West Suffolk Water Board 11th July, 1967

Marked Raw Water - Ixworth P.S. I/C/SU/451 Lab. No. 3444/W Cert. No. T.1326

The Chemical results are stated in parts per million

Distinctive No. or Name	Nitrogen				Chlorion as Chlorine	Oxygen absorbed from Permang- anate (4hr., 27°C)	Hardness		Free Carbon Dioxide	Total Dissolved Solids at 180°C	pH	Iron	Other Metals	
	Ammon- iacal	Album inoid	Nitrate	Nitrite			Total	Temp. Perm.						
Appearance: Clear														
Deposit: Nil														
Colour: Nil														
Taste: Satisfactory														
Odour: Nil														
	nil	0.02	4	0.03	38	0.55	370	270	100	34	490	7.2	0.13	nil

REMARKS: This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The nitrate content and salinity of this water seem somewhat variable; the present analysis agrees very well in these respects with that of the sample taken in May, 1966. The mineral analysis is typical of an East Anglian water derived from the chalk. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purpose.

West Suffolk Water Board
Rushbrook P.S.

		parts per million
Calcium as Ca	120	" " "
Magnesium as Mg	4	" " "
Sodium as Na	12	" " "
Carbonate as CO ₃	168	" " "
Chloride as Cl	20	" " "
Sulphate as SO ₄	25	" " "
Nitrate as NO ₃	11	" " "
Iron as Fe	0.04	" " "
Fluorine as F	0.3	" " "
Silica as SiO ₂	14	" " "

E.C.W.

West Suffolk Water Board
Risby P.S.

		parts per million
Calcium as Ca	112	" " "
Magnesium as Mg	4	" " "
Sodium as Na	12	" " "
Carbonate as CO ₃	150	" " "
Chloride as Cl	16	" " "
Sulphate as SO ₄	20	" " "
Nitrate as NO ₃	25	" " "
Iron as Fe	0.07	" " "
Fluorine as F	0.15	" " "
Silica as SiO ₂	8	" " "

E.C.W.

